1: Meek E, G-5 (1925-1930) 1931
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son frequently leaves his father's compound, builds one for himself and farms on his own account (provided his father has someone[1] to look after him). Farms are, therefore, owned and worked individually, the farmer being assisted by an unmarried (or adopted) son, and by his wives (in such farming work as women perform, viz. planting out the *dauro*[2] millet, plucking the *acha*[3] millet, and helping to clean the farm at the beginning of the agricultural year). But brothers or cousins occupying the same compound may agree to farm together and share the harvested grain.

The principal crops grown are *dauro* and *acha* millet, the staple food crops. Guinea-corn is grown entirely for conversion into beer. *Aburu*,[4] *gwaza*,[5] yams, sweet potatoes, and ground nuts are also cultivated fairly extensively. The minor crops are cassava, coleus dysentericus, wild tomatoes, *risga*,[6] pumpkins, and the beniseed, which plays an important part in all religious rites. Every Katab woman has a farm of broad beans at the back of her hut grown on trellis work.

The Katab country is very fertile, and the absence of cotton is, therefore, surprising. For farming the Katab uses the spurred hoe common to all pagans of the Middle Zone (see photograph). The farming methods are those generally employed, and need not be described. There is the usual system of one day's co-operative work (*gaya*) every now and then on an individual's farm, the farmer providing his helpers liberally with beer. Thus there is a *gaya* for threshing the *acha*. The workers, men and women, assemble in the *acha* field during a moonlight night and set to work. The *acha* is made up into small bundles, and the men tramp out the grain by pressing the heel on the ears, the women extracting what remains by beating the bundles with sticks. *Acha* and *aburu* are much alike, but *acha*, not being so firmly rooted as *aburu*, is at harvest not cut but merely pulled out of the ground by the women. *Aburu* on the other hand is cut with a sickle (right hand), the left hand gathering up the sheaves which are bound into small bundles.

Grain is stored in a granary of the type indicated in the

[1] Usually a younger son or cousin. A younger son is not allowed to marry until his elder brothers have married.
[2] Dauro = Bulrush millet (*Pennisetum spicatum*).
[3] Acha = *Digitaria exilis*.
[4] Aburu = *Digitaria iburua*.
[5] Gwaza = *Colocasia antiquorum*.
[6] Risga = *Plectanthrus floribundus*.

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A KATAB GRANARY

THE KATAB HOE

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PLATE 6

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KATAB WOMEN POUNDING CORN

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